

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

RAND'S GOLDENROD

(Solidago spathulata DC. ssp. randii (Porter) Cronq.)

DESCRIPTION

Rand's Goldenrod is a perennial with a smooth and rather stout stem, 4-35" (10-89cm.) tall. The numerous basal leaves are serrated, obovate, $\frac{1}{2}$ -3" (1.3-7.2cm.) long and end in a point. Stem leaves are untoothed, lance-shaped, and progressively smaller up the stem. Bright yellow flower heads are in dense, axillary clusters, giving the plant a bottle brush appearance. The flowering season is late August to early October.

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Downy Goldenrod (S. puberula) is very similar in appearance and often grows on rocky slopes and ledges. However, its stem and leaves are densely covered with fine, short, appressed hairs. Furthermore, the tiny green bracts surrounding the base of each flowerhead are long-pointed in puberula, whereas they are merely acute or blunt in randii.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Rand's Goldenrod inhabits acidic cliff communities at high elevations, specifically on the open, dry granite or schist ledges in rock seams and narrow shelves. Species found co-occurring with this Goldenrod include Dechampsia flexuosa (Early Hair-grass), Carex pensylvanica (Pennsylvania Sedge), Potentilla tridentata (Three-toothed Cinquefoil), Poa compressa (Wire Grass), and Andropogon scoparius (Little Blue-stem).

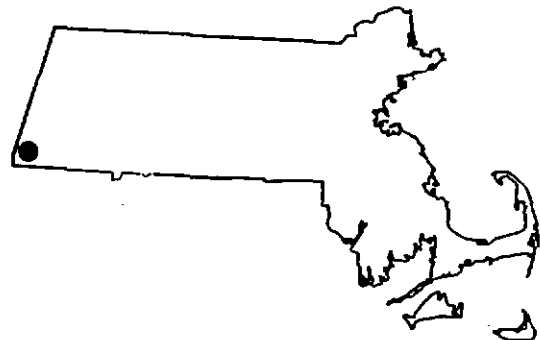


RANGE

Rand's Goldenrod is distributed locally from Nova Scotia to the Lake
(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Rand's Goldenrod



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

RAND'S GOLDENROD (continued)

Superior region, south to Massachusetts and New York, and disjunct in the mountains of Virginia.

POPULATION STATUS

Rand's Goldenrod is considered "Endangered" in Massachusetts. Only one occurrence has been recorded since 1978; two historical stations in the same vicinity have not been relocated. This species rarity is due to there being relatively few areas at high elevations with naturally open ledges and cliff tops.